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FAR EAST

2. AUSTRALIA: Anti-Communist action --US Ambassador Jarman in Canberra reports that the newly-elected Liberal-Country Government has invoked strong emergency powers for use against the current series of Communist-led strikes. In Jarman's opinion, this "bold and vigorous" action indicates the new government's determination to force a showdown with Communist union leaders. The Ambassador points out that the action appears to have strong popular support and predicts that the government "stands a good chance of victory."

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(C)

[REDACTED] this anti-Communist action is an attempt at testing public reaction in preparation for early action by the government to fulfill its campaign pledge to outlaw the Australian Communist Party.)

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